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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/017,019	12/14/2001	Satheesh Kumar Krishnamoorthy	ROC920010284US1	7834

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EXAMINER

PHAN, TAM T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2144

DATE MAILED: 03/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/017,019

Applicant(s)

KRISHNAMOORTHY, SATHEESH  
KUMAR

Examiner

Tam (Jenny) Phan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This application has been examined. Claims 1-29 are presented for examination.

***Priority***

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file. The effective filing date for the subject matter defined in the pending claims in this application is 12/14/2001.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahlberg et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,587,836), hereinafter referred to as Ahlberg, in view of Itabashi et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,308,203), hereinafter referred to as Itabashi.

6. Regarding claim 1, Ahlberg disclosed a method of providing entitlement services information to users (Title, Abstract, column 2 lines 16-32), comprising: receiving a request for entitlement services information for a particular user (column 3 lines 28-30, column 3 line 61-column 4 line 12); and in response to receiving the request, accessing a common entitlement services information repository (column 3 lines 32-38, column 13 line 65-column 14 line 20); wherein the common entitlement services information repository associates entitlement services with products to which the entitlement services attach and with users of the products (column 6 lines 3-11, column 21 lines 24-36, column 29 lines 1-13).

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7. Ahlberg taught the invention substantially as claimed. However, Ahlberg did not expressly teach a method of providing entitlement services information to users wherein each of at least a portion of the plurality of users is associated with at least two products.

8. Ahlberg suggested exploration of art and/or provided a reason to modify the method of providing entitlement services information with additional feature such as associating at least a portion of the plurality of users with a plurality of products (column 3 lines 14-30, column 6 lines 24-32, column 28 lines 48-57).

9. Itabashi disclosed a method of providing entitlement services information to users wherein each of at least a portion of the plurality of users is associated with at least two products (Figures 5 and 7, column 1 lines 20-42, column 2 lines 5-13, column 3 lines 64-11, column 13 lines 49-55).

10. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the method of Ahlberg with the teachings of Itabashi to associate at least a portion of the plurality of users with a plurality of products in order to purchase disparate products and services via a single security profile (Ahlberg, column 3 lines 31-37) since when accessing two or more service or information providers to acquire plural products, the user must submit his or her personal information to each of these providers every time he or she places an order which resulted in time-wasting and error-prone operation (Itabashi, column 1 lines 26-33).

11. Regarding claim 2, Ahlberg disclosed a method wherein the common entitlement services information repository associates a combination of an entitlement service, a product and a user with a geographic region (Abstract, column 3 lines 14-31, column 6 lines 24-32, column 26 lines 47-61).

12. Regarding claim 3, Ahlberg and Itabashi combined disclose a method wherein the at least two products comprise at least one hardware product and at least one software product (Ahlberg, column 21 lines 24-36, column 28 lines 48-57; Itabashi, column 1 lines 20-33).

13. Regarding claim 4, Ahlberg disclosed a method wherein the request is issued by a Web based application (Abstract, Figures 2 and 4).

14. Regarding claim 5, Ahlberg disclosed a method wherein the request is issued by a first application invoked by the particular user browsing a Web site (Abstract, Figures 2 and 4, column 3 lines 14-37).

15. Regarding claim 6, Ahlberg disclosed a method wherein the first application is configured to provide support for only a portion of a plurality of entitlement services represented in the common entitlement services information repository (column 14 lines 2-20).

16. Regarding claim 7, Ahlberg disclosed a method further comprising: responding to the request by providing the first application with entitlement services information for the particular user; and passing the entitlement services information for the particular user from the first application to a second application (column 3 lines 14-37, column 15 lines 34-52).

17. Regarding claim 8, Ahlberg disclosed a method further comprising populating the common entitlement services information repository with entitlement services data contained in a plurality of entitlement services databases each of which are specific to a particular product (column 6 lines 8-11, column 19 lines 49-59, column 26 lines 47-61).

18. Regarding claim 9, Ahlberg disclosed a method wherein populating comprises associating a combination of an entitlement service, a product and a user with a geographic region (Abstract, column 3 lines 14-31, column 6 lines 24-32, column 26 lines 47-61).

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19. Regarding claim 10, Ahlberg and Itabashi combined disclose an entitlement services system, comprising: a common entitlement services information system comprising a repository associating entitlement services with products to which the entitlement services attach and with users of the products (Ahlberg, column 3 lines 28-38, column 3 line 61-column 4 line 12, column 6 lines 3-11, column 13 line 65-column 14 line 20); wherein each of at least a portion of the plurality of users is associated with at least two products (Itabashi, Figures 5 and 7, column 1 lines 20-42, column 2 lines 5-13, column 3 lines 64-11, column 13 lines 49-55).

20. Regarding claim 11, Ahlberg disclosed a system further comprising at least one server hosting a plurality of applications each configured to issue requests to the common entitlement services information system for entitlement services information and each configured to pass the entitlement services information between one another (column 3 lines 14-37, column 15 lines 34-52).

21. Regarding claim 12, Ahlberg disclosed a system wherein the repository associates a combination of an entitlement service, a product and a user with a geographic region (Abstract, column 3 lines 14-31, column 6 lines 24-32, column 26 lines 47-61).

22. Regarding claim 13, Itabashi disclosed a system wherein each of at least a portion of the plurality of users is associated with at least two products (Figures 5 and 7, column 1 lines 20-42, column 2 lines 5-13, column 3 lines 64-11, column 13 lines 49-55).

23. Regarding claim 14, Ahlberg and Itabashi disclosed a system wherein the at least two products comprise at least one hardware product and at least one software product (Ahlberg, column 21 lines 24-36, column 28 lines 48-57; Itabashi, column 1 lines 20-33).

24. Regarding claim 15, Ahlberg disclosed a system further comprising at least one server hosting a plurality of applications each configured to issue requests to the common entitlement

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services information system for entitlement services information; wherein each of the plurality of applications is configured to provide support for only a portion of a plurality of entitlement services represented in the repository (column 14 lines 2-20, column 15 lines 35-52, column 19 lines 49-59).

25. Regarding claim 16, Ahlberg disclosed a system further comprising a web server hosting a Web service providing an interface to each of the plurality of applications (Abstract, Figures 2, 4-7, column 3 line 61-column 4 line 14).

26. Regarding claim 17, Ahlberg disclosed a system wherein the plurality of applications are invoked by browser requests (Abstract, Figures 2 and 4, column 3 lines 14-37).

27. Regarding claim 18, Ahlberg disclosed a system further comprising a plurality of entitlement services databases from which entitlement services information is replicated to the common entitlement services information repository (column 3 lines 47-53, column 29 lines 47-50).

28. Regarding claim 19, Ahlberg disclosed a system wherein each of the plurality of entitlement services databases is specific to a particular product (column 6 lines 8-11, column 19 lines 49-59, column 26 lines 47-61).

29. Regarding claim 20, Ahlberg disclosed a system wherein each of the plurality of entitlement services databases is specific to a particular geographic region (column 3 lines 47-53, column 14 lines 2-20, column 26 lines 47-61).

30. Regarding claim 21, Ahlberg and Itabashi combined disclose an entitlement services system, comprising: (a) a common entitlement services information system, comprising: a repository associating entitlement services with products to which the entitlement services attach and with users of the products (Ahlberg, column 6 lines 3-11, column 21 lines 24-36, column 29

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lines 1-13); wherein each of at least a portion of the plurality of users is associated with at least two products (Itabashi, Figures 5 and 7, column 1 lines 20-42, column 2 lines 5-13, column 3 lines 64-11, column 13 lines 49-55); and an access control software component configured to access the repository in response to entitlement services information requests (Ahlberg, Abstract, Figures 2 and 4, column 3 lines 14-37); (b) at least one server executing a plurality of Web based applications configured to issue the entitlement services information requests (Ahlberg, column 14 lines 2-20, column 15 lines 35-52, column 19 lines 49-59); and (c) a web server hosting a Web service providing an interface to each of the plurality of applications (Ahlberg, Abstract, Figures 2, 4-7, column 3 line 61-column 4 line 14).

31. Regarding claim 22, Ahlberg disclosed a system wherein each of the plurality of applications is configured to provide support for only a portion of a plurality of entitlement services represented in the repository (column 14 lines 2-20, column 15 lines 35-52, column 19 lines 49-59).

32. Regarding claim 23, Ahlberg disclosed a system wherein the plurality of applications are invoked by browser requests (Abstract, Figures 2 and 4, column 3 lines 14-37).

33. Regarding claim 24, Ahlberg disclosed a system wherein the plurality of applications are each configured to pass the entitlement services information between one another (column 3 lines 14-37, column 15 lines 34-52).

34. Regarding claim 25, Ahlberg disclosed a system wherein the repository associates a combination of an entitlement service, a product and a user with a geographic region (Abstract, column 3 lines 14-31, column 6 lines 24-32, column 26 lines 47-61).



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35. Regarding claim 26, Ahlberg and Itabashi disclosed a system wherein the at least two products comprise at least one hardware product and at least one software product (Ahlberg, column 21 lines 24-36, column 28 lines 48-57; Itabashi, column 1 lines 20-33).

36. Regarding claim 27, Ahlberg disclosed a system further comprising a plurality of entitlement services databases from which entitlement services information is replicated to the common entitlement services information repository (column 3 lines 47-53, column 29 lines 47-50).

37. Regarding claim 28, Ahlberg disclosed a system wherein each of the plurality of entitlement services databases is specific to a particular product (column 6 lines 8-11, column 19 lines 49-59, column 26 lines 47-61).

38. Regarding claim 29, Ahlberg disclosed a system wherein each of the plurality of entitlement services databases is specific to a particular geographic region (column 3 lines 47-53, column 14 lines 2-20, column 26 lines 47-61).

39. Since all the limitations of the claimed invention were disclosed by the combination of Ahlberg and Itabashi, claims 1-29 are rejected.

### ***Conclusion***

40. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- a. Shaffer et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,748,426) titled "System and method for linking information in a global computer network" disclosed a system that flexibly, retrieves, processes and distributes data across a global computer network is disclosed. Within the system, a first party identifier is captured and converted into a Linkage Key, such as a United States Postal Service Delivery point code (11-digit zip code). The

Linkage Key is then used to retrieve Linkage Key indexed data from various network nodes that house components of a virtual Linkage Key indexed database. The retrieved information associated with the first party identifier is then distributed by the system to one or more network nodes to provide benefits to the first party and other network nodes.

b. Zamanzadeh et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,535,917) titled "Market data domain and enterprise system implemented by a master entitlement processor" disclosed a computer system including a master entitlement processor for storing user information, such as user passwords and access permissions, and a user computer system for allowing a user to operate an application in accordance with the user information corresponding to the user. The user computer system preferably includes a plurality of server computers organized into an enterprise including a plurality of domains. Two-way communication between the master entitlement processor and the server computers facilitates accurate storage, reliable access and easy modification of the user information.

c. Germscheid et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,782,425) titled "Session based security profile for internet access of an enterprise server" disclosed an apparatus for and method of utilizing an internet terminal coupled to the world wide web to access an existing proprietary data base management system having a dialog-based request format. The user request is received by a web server from the world wide web and converted into one or more sequenced data base management commands stored as corresponding to the service request. If the user terminal requests access to a secure function or to secure data, the user terminal is interrogated to determine its user profile.

d. Tenorio (U.S. Patent Number 6,778,991) titled "Dynamic load balancing using semantic traffic monitoring" disclosed an electronic commerce system includes one or

more product databases that store product data for a plurality of products. The system includes a global content directory (GCD) that includes a plurality of product classes organized in a hierarchy. Each product class categorizes a number of products and is associated with one or more attributes of the products categorized in the product class. The system further includes a search interface that communicates a search query to the product databases to search for product data stored in the product databases identified by one of the pointers. User may select a product from the product listing to indicate a desire to initiate a transaction regarding the product, such as a purchase of the product. On such a selection, GCD may communicate a repository identifier (RID) identifying the selected seller and a globally unique identifier (GUID) for the product to user. For example, an RID may be the network address of a seller network node or may be associated with the network address in a table and request a transaction regarding the product using the GUID. GCD may even provide a link including a URL of a web site associated with the seller or may provide another appropriate method for user to be connected to seller.

41. Refer to the enclosed PTO-892 for details and complete listing of other pertinent prior art of record.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tam (Jenny) Phan whose telephone number is (571) 272-3930. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Cuchlinski can be reached on (571) 272-3925. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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February 25, 2005